

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 18 October 2007

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room C
Department of Administration

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-II: Present: Gary J. Gaube, Wallace Gernt, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano RN, Ph.D., Robert Hamel R.N., Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Reverend David Shire

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Maria Gil

Excused Absences: Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair), Raymond C. Coia, Esq.

Denise Panichas

Staff: Valentina Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Chrystele Lauture (Intern), Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of 23 August 2007 and 20 and 27 September 2007 of the Project Review Committee-II were approved as submitted. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of six in favor and none opposed (6-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame and provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Gaube, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Quigley, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of Specialty Personnel Services, Inc. for initial licensure of a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency at 790 Charles Street in Providence.

Staff noted that from the previous meeting the Committee had questions to the applicant primarily relating to financial issues. This related to the different companies of the applicant and their financial

performance. Staff noted that the applicant has home care agency, a staffing company and a Massachusetts agency. The applicant stated that company operates at a 2% profit margin and all expenses are basic. Staff noted that previously the applicant projected a 33% profit margin on Medicaid. The applicant stated that information was in error.

Rev. Shire requested the applicant to discuss their charity care policy. The applicant responded that they would contact a state social worker to see if a patient qualifies for Medicare or Medicaid. If they do not the applicant will take care of the patient at no cost. The applicant stated that they will not develop specific financial criteria. Services would be provided to those patients who are not eligible for state services. The applicant stated that they are concerned that if they develop criteria and patients do not meet it then they would not meet the 1% requirement. Sen. Graziano asked whether the applicant has age limits and serves pediatric patients. The applicant stated that they do not have any age limits, and have patients that are disabled and have disability waivers.

Staff noted that they are not aware of any licensure issues related to the applicant.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of six in favor and none opposed (6-0) to recommend that the application be approved with the conditions of approval. Those members voting in

favor of the motion were: Gaube, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Quigley, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the application of CareLink Pace Organization d/b/a PACE Organization of Rhode Island for initial licensure of a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency at 225 Chapman Street in Providence.

Staff noted there were questions regarding the appropriate licensure category and why the applicant's clinic did not require an organized ambulatory care licensee in addition the home nursing care licensee that they are applying. Staff noted that the clinic is presently licensed by the Department of Elderly Affairs as an adult day care center. Staff noted that if it's licensed by one state agency it does not require licensure by another state agency. Staff stated that the home care portion of the services will be licensed under the home nursing care license.

The applicant reviewed responses to questions. The applicant noted that CMS requires PACE's clients to have a payor source. PACE is an all-inclusive model of care. If clients are unable to pay their co-pay, the applicant may forgive that portion.

Mr. Gernt asked the applicant what happens when someone has no payer source. The applicant stated that they cannot enroll the client. Generally clients are eligible for something but they do not have the

resources or knowledge to access these services. The applicant works with the client to establish some type of payor source and this process has taken up to 2 months. The applicant stated that based on the average national statistics, their clients are 83 years of age, majority are women, and they all meet nursing home eligibility and need help with at least two activities of daily living. The Chair stated that this is a federal program that has enrollment restrictions. Mr. Hamel asked the applicant what kind of provider network do they have. The applicant responded that they have contracts with hospitals, nursing homes, and other agencies.

Staff stated that if there is a recommendation then the report will reflect the CMS requirements. Staff noted that the applicant may need a variance from Facilities Regulations on the uncompensated care standard. Mr. Gernt and Rev. Shire noted that PACE is a unique entity.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of six in favor and none opposed (6-0) to recommend that the application be approved with the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Gaube, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Quigley, Shire.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA